

**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814-3044

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

PROJECT TITLE: Cannabis Remediation and Floodplain Restoration

LOCATION: [Great Valley Grasslands State Park](#)

COUNTY: Merced

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Remediate several former illegal cannabis cultivation sites at Great Valley Grasslands State Park to restore the floodplain within approximately 20 acres of the riparian area of the State Park. The project sites are located along a 5.5-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River. Project work is as follows:

- Remove and dispose of all cannabis related materials and other signs of impact to the natural resources;
- Rehabilitate illegal use trails and re-contour affected areas, such as cisterns and wells;
- Thin accumulated fuels from understory trees and shrubs and pile burn, and remove excess surface fuel loads and ladder fuels resulting from grow operations;
- Collect, propagate and replant native vegetation, and irrigate and monitor planted seedlings;
- Remove non-native, invasive plants on a monthly schedule until full establishment of native plants; and
- Monitor progress to determine success rate of planted native plants, efficacy of non-native and invasive plant removal, and ensure that the site is not reoccupied by illegal cannabis cultivators.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Central Valley District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption

Class: 4, 6

Section: 15304, 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural resources, included as "Resource Management Projects" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4, and consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and is included as "Baseline Monitoring" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

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Central Valley District

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Original Signature on File
Danielle Gerhart, District Superintendent

DATE 2/2/2022